

## CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A drug for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure, comprising an active ingredient that inhibits apoptosis induced by  
5 ASK1 protein and inhibits left ventricular remodeling induced by the ASK1 protein, wherein the active ingredient is at least one kind of compound selected from a compound that inhibits kinase activity of the ASK1 protein in a cardiomyocyte, a compound that inhibits translation of ASK1 mRNA in a cardiomyocyte, and a compound that inhibits transcription of ASK1 gene in a  
10 cardiomyocyte.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Amended) The drug according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is  
15 a compound that inhibits at least one selected from the group consisting of Daxx, TRAF2, calmodulin-dependent kinase II, MKK3, MKK4, MKK6, MKK7, JNK, and p38 MAPK.
4. (Cancelled)
- 20 5. (Amended) The drug according to claim 1, wherein the compound that inhibits kinase activity of ASK1 protein in a cardiomyocyte is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of a dominant negative mutant of ASK1 protein, an anti-ASK1 antibody, and thioredoxin.
- 25 6. (Amended) The drug according to claim 1, wherein the compound that inhibits translation of ASK1 mRNA in a cardiomyocyte is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of antisense DNA, antisense RNA, and RNA for RNA interference.

7. (Amended) A method for screening a drug for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure, comprising a process of selecting a medicinal component that inhibits apoptosis induced by ASK1 protein and inhibits left ventricular remodeling induced by the ASK1 protein from a drug candidate compound, wherein the process includes at least one process selected from the group consisting of a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of kinase activity of the ASK1 protein as an indication, a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of autophosphorylation of the ASK1 protein as an indication, a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of transcription translation of ASK1 gene as an indication, a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of activity of a factor activating the ASK1 protein as an indication, and a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of a factor activated by the ASK1 protein as an indication.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. The method for screening according to claim 7, wherein the factor activating ASK1 protein is at least one selected from the group consisting of Daxx, TRAF2, and calmodulin-dependent kinase II.

14. (Cancelled)

15. The method for screening according to claim 7, wherein the factor  
5 activated by ASK1 protein is at least one selected from the group consisting of  
MKK3, MKK4, MKK6, MKK7, JNK, and p38 MAPK.

16. A method for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure,  
comprising inhibiting a functional expression of ASK1 protein in a  
10 cardiomyocyte.

17. A method for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure,  
comprising suppressing apoptosis of a cardiomyocyte induced by ASK1  
protein.